FORM PTO-1390 (REV 5-93) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER: 427.034

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5): 09/486142

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
PCT/FR98/01767	August 7, 1998	August 26, 1997

TITLE OF INVENTION: OLIGONUCLEOTIDES WHICH ALLOW IDENTIFICATION OF PRECURSORS OF AMIDATED POLYPEPTIDE HORMONES

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US: MARTINEZ et al

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. [X] This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. [ ] This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. [ ] This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. [ ] A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. [X] A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
   a. [X] is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
   b. [ ] has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
   c. [ ] is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)
6. [X] A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. [ ] Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
   a. [ ] are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
   b. [ ] have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
   c. [ ] have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
   d. [ ] have not been made and will not be made.
8. [ ] A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. [X] An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). UNEXECUTED
10. [ ] A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:

11. [X] An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. [ ] An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. [X] A FIRST preliminary amendment.
    [ ] A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. [ ] A substitute specification.
15. [ ] A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. [X] Other items or information: French International Preliminary Examination Report with Amended Sheets; Appendix 1 (3 sheets); PCT/IB/332

U.S. APPLICATION NO (If known, see 37 C.F.R. 1.5)	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
09/486142	PCT/FR98/01767	427.034

17. [X] The following fees are submitted:

430 Rec'd PCT/PTO 18 FEB 2000

	CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY
Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO $830.00	$ 970.00
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) $640.00	
No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) .. $710.00	
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO $950.00	
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) $90.00	
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =	$ 970.00
Surcharge of $130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than [ ] 20 [ ] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(c)).	$

Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	
Total Claims	25 -20 =	5	X $18	$ 90.00
Independent Claims	-3 =		X $74.00	$
Multiple dependent claims(s) (if applicable)			+ $230.00	$
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				$ 1060.00
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity statement must also be filed. (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				$
SUBTOTAL =				$ 1060.00
Processing fee of $130.00 for furnishing the English translation later the [ ] 20 [ ] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). +				$
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				$ 1060.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). $40.00 per property +				$
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				$ 1060.00
			Amount to be: refunded	$
			charged	$

a. [X] A check in the amount of $ 1060.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. [ ] Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of $_____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2275. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Bierman, Muserlian and Lucas
600 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Charles J. Muserlian

SIGNATURE

Charles A. Muserlian

NAME

19,683

REGISTRATION NUMBER

Form PTO-1390 (REV 5-93)

Our Ref.: 427.034

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	:	
MARTINEZ et al	:	PCT Date: August 7, 1998
PCT/FR98/01767	:	
Serial No.:	:	
Filed: Concurrently Herewith	:	
For: OLIGONUCLEOTIDES...HORMONES	:	

600 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10016

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 1, insert

--This application is a 371 of PCT/FR98/01767 filed August 7, 1998.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3, line 1, cancel "or 2".

Claims 4 and 5, line 1 of each, cancel "2 or 3".

Claims 10 and 11, line 1 of each, cancel "or 9".

Claim 16, lines 4 and 5, cancel "any of the claims 1 to 7" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 18, lines 5 and 8, cancel "any one of claims 1 to 7" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 20, lines 5 and 7, cancel "any one of claims 1 to 7" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 22, lines 5 and 10, cancel "any one of claims 1 to 7" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 24, line 1, cancel "any one of claims 16 to 23" and insert --claim 16--.

Claim 25, line 1, cancel "any one of claims 16 to 24" and insert --claim 16--.

REMARKS

The amendment is submitted to refer to the PCT application and

to remove multiple dependency from the claims.

Respectfully submitted,
BIERMAN, MUSERLIAN AND LUCAS

Charles A. Muserlian, #19,683
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Tel. # (212) 661-8000

CAM:sd
Enclosure: Return Receipt Postcard

Oligonucleotides which allow identification of precursors of amidated polypeptide hormones

The present invention relates to new oligonucleotides and their use as probes for identification of the mRNA which codes for precursors of amidated polypeptide hormones, and to the identification of new amidated polypeptide hormones. The invention thus relates to oligonucleotides of which the nucleotide sequence is described below and a method for identification of precursors of hormones.

Amidated polypeptide hormones are synthesized in the form of a precursor which undergoes maturation. This maturation consists of an amidation reaction.

The amidation reaction of the C-terminal end is a characteristic reaction of amidated polypeptide hormones. This reaction, which occurs on the precursor of one or more hormones, allows maturation of the hormone and also ensures its biostability in the physiological medium: the amide group formed is less vulnerable than the free acid function. The hormone is therefore more resistant to carboxypeptidases, it remains active in the cell for longer and retains an optimum affinity for its receptor site.

Amidation has been widely described ("Peptide amidation", Alan F. Bradbury and Derek G. Smyth, TIBS 16 : 112-115, March 1991 and "Functional and structural characterization of peptidylamidoglycolate lyase, the enzyme catalysing the second step in peptide amidation", A. G. Katopodis, D. S. Ping, C. E. Smith and S. W. May, Biochemistry, 30(25) : 6189-6194, June 1991), and its mechanism is as follows:

1 - Cleavage of the precursor polypeptide chain of the hormone by an endoprotease at the two basic amino acids, that is to say arginine and/or lysine,

2 - Subsequently two cleavages by carboxypeptidase result, which lead to the extended glycine intermediate,

3 - The enzyme PAM (peptidyl-glycine-α-amidating monooxygenase) comprises two distinct enzymatic activities: firstly, it converts the extended glycine intermediate into an α-hydroxyglycine derivative, the subunit of the enzyme PAM involved is PHM (peptidyl-glycine-α-hydroxylating monooxygenase). The derivative obtained serves as the substrate for the second subunit of PAM (called PAL: peptidyl-α-hydroxyglycine-α-amidating lyase), which fixes the amine function of the glycine on to the amino acid immediately adjacent to the N-terminal side and liberates glyoxylate.

This reaction involves the presence of a recognition site on the precursor of the hormone or hormones, a site which always comprises the sequence: glycine and two basic amino acids (arginine or lysine) (cf. A.G. Katopodis et coll., Biochemistry, **30**(25), 6189-6194, June 1991, and references cited).

The amidated polypeptide hormones which are to be secreted outside the endoplasmic reticulum are known to comprise a consensus signal sequence of about fifteen to thirty amino acids, this sequence being present at the N-terminal end of the polypeptide chain. It is cut later by a signal peptidase enzyme such that it is no longer found in the protein once secreted (cf. F. Cuttitta, *The Anatomical Record*, **236**, 87-93 (1993) and references cited).

At the present time, the discovery of a new protein is not easy. Proteins can be isolated and purified by various techniques: precipitation at the isoelectric point, selective extraction by certain solvents and then purification by crystallization, counter-current distribution, adsorption, partition or ion exchange chromatography, electrophoresis.... However, these techniques imply knowledge of the properties of the protein to be isolated. Furthermore, if a pure sample of a new protein of interest at the therapeutic level is available, there are still several stages before a genetically modified microorganism capable of synthesizing it is available.

The method proposed by the present invention offers the advantage, by using a characteristic of the peptide sequence of the precursor of all amidated hormones known to date, of allowing simultaneous detection of several new hormones of this category. This search is affected by direct identification of the nucleotide sequence which codes for the said precursors in cDNA banks prepared from tissues in which the precursors of these hormones can be synthesized.

The search by this method is much less restricting than the abovementioned conventional techniques of biochemistry, since:

- it can lead to the isolation of several distinct precursors present in the same tissue by the same principle;

- it allows detection, under the same technical conditions, of precursors corresponding to hormones which have very different biochemical and biological properties;

- it allows concomitant identification of all the peptide hormones which can be contained in the same precursor.

As a result, this invention allows a not insignificant saving in time and money in a sector where the costs of research and development represent a very high proportion of turnover.

The present invention will also allow pharmacological study of active substances having a fundamental physiological roll in the mammalian organism: hormones and more particularly amidated polypeptide neurohormones. Having available for the first time cDNA corresponding to active substances, it will then be possible to introduce the cloned vector by genetic engineering to lead to synthesis of hormones having a therapeutic use by means of microorganisms.

The invention first relates to a single-stranded oligonucleotide OX which can hybridize under mild conditions with an oligonucleotide OY of the sequence Y1-Y2-Y3-Y4-Y5, in which Y1 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or Y1 is suppressed, Y2 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Gly, Y3 and Y4 independently represent a trinucleotide which codes for Arg or Lys and Y5 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 21 nucleotides or Y5 is suppressed.

Nucleotide is understood as meaning a monomeric unit of RNA or DNA having the chemical structure of a nucleoside phosphoric ester. A nucleoside results from bonding of a purine base (purine, adenine, guanine or analogues) or of a pyrimidine base (pyrimidine, cytosine, uracil or analogues) with ribose or deoxyribose. An oligonucleotide is a polymer of nucleotides designating a primer sequence, a probe or a fragment of RNA or DNA.

The oligonucleotides mentioned can be obtained by synthesis, and there is a reference automated method which is described in the following publications: "DNA synthesis" by S. A. Narang, Tetrahedron, 39, 3 (1983) and "Synthesis and use of synthetic oligonucleotides" by K. Itakura, J. J. Rossi and R. B. Wallace, Annu. Rev. Biochem., 53, 323 (1984).

Preferably, OX can hybridize with OY under stringent conditions.

More preferably, OX can hybridize with an oligonucleotide OY of the sequence Y2-Y3-Y4-Y5.

Still more preferably, OX can hybridize with an oligonucleotide OY of the sequence Y1-Y2-Y3-Y4 or Y2-Y3-Y4.

In particular, OX can hybridize with an oligonucleotide OY such that Y5 represents a nucleotide sequence Y6-Y7-Y8-Y9, in which Y6 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Ser, Thr or Tyr, Y7 represents a trinucleotide which codes for any amino acid, Y8 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Glu or Asp and Y9 represents a nucleotide sequence comprising 1 to 12 nucleotides. More particularly, OX can hybridize with an oligonucleotide OY such that Y1 and Y9 are suppressed.

Especially particularly, OX can hybridize with an oligonucleotide OY in which Y2 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Gly, Y3 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Lys, Y4 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Arg and Y5 represents a sequence of 3 trinucleotides which codes for Ser-Ala-Glu.

This sequence was determined with the aid of a statistical study of 27 known amidation sites and led to definition of a given pattern of amino acids over 6 positions: Gly-Lys-Arg-Ser-Ala-Glu.

Because of the degeneration of the genetic code and the high number of codons corresponding to Gly (4 codons), Arg (6 codons) and Ser (6 codons), the oligonucleotide sequence was constructed with the aid of two procedures which allow this degeneration to be taken into account:

- use of certain positions of inosine, a nucleotide in which the nitrogen base hypoxanthine pairs indiscriminately with the 4 nitrogen bases which make up the DNA,

- variation at certain positions of the nature of the nitrogen base incorporated, thus generating a number of combinations of oligonucleotides proportional to the number of different bases introduced.

The present invention also relates to an oligonucleotide OY comprising 9 to 42 nucleotides of the sequence Y1-Y2-Y3-Y4-Y5, in which Y1 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or Y1 is suppressed, Y2 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Gly, Y3 and Y4 independently represent a trinucleotide which codes for Arg or Lys and Y5 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 21 nucleotides or Y5 is suppressed.

Preferably, the invention relates to an oligonucleotide OY such that Y1 is suppressed or such that Y5 is suppressed.

The invention particularly relates to an oligonucleotide OY such that Y5 represents a nucleotide sequence Y6-Y7-Y8-Y9, in which Y6 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Ser, Thr or Tyr, Y7 represents a trinucleotide which codes for any amino acid, Y8 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Glu or Asp and Y9 represents a nucleotide sequence comprising 1 to 12 nucleotides.

The invention more particularly relates to an oligonucleotide OY such that Y1 and Y9 are suppressed.

The invention especially particularly relates to an oligonucleotide OY, characterized in that Y1 is suppressed, Y2 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Gly, Y3 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Lys, Y4 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Arg and Y5 represents a sequence of three trinucleotides which codes for Ser-Ala-Glu.

The present invention also relates to a single-stranded oligonucleotide OZ, characterized in that it comprises 15 to 39 nucleotides and is capable of hybridizing with a consensus signal sequence characteristic of amidated polypeptide hormones, the said sequence having as the formula Z1-Z2-Z3-Z4-Z5-Z6-Z7, in which Z1 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or Z1 is suppressed, Z2 and Z3 represent two trinucleotides which code for Leu, Z4 and Z5 represent two trinucleotides which code for any two amino acids, Z6 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Leu and Z7 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or Z7 is suppressed.

In this invention, hormone will be understood as meaning amidated polypeptide hormones of the endocrine system, and more particularly neurohormones.

The consensus signal sequence is a sequence carried by the precursors of proteins which are secreted by cells after their maturation.

Finally, the present invention relates to a group of oligonucleotides OX or OZ such as constitutes a combinatorial library.

In the invention described, combinatorial library is understood as meaning a group of oligonucleotides synthesized by taking as the model a nucleotide sequence which codes

for a sequence of amino acids of which some can be varied. Because of the degeneration of the genetic code, a group of different oligonucleotides will be obtained.

The invention also relates to a method for identification of the precursor of a peptide having an amidated C-terminal end, characterized by the following successive stages:

1 - Obtaining of a DNA bank;

2 - Hybridization of one or more oligonucleotides OX with the said DNA bank;

3 - Identification of the DNA sequence or sequences of the said bank which hybridizes with an oligonucleotide OX;

4 - Identification in this sequence or sequences of one or more peptides with a possible amidated C-terminal end.

A method such that the DNA bank is a cDNA bank will be preferred.

Complementary DNA (cDNA) is a nucleotide chain of which the sequence is complementary to that of an mRNA, the reaction leading to monocatenated cDNA being catalysed by inverse transcriptase. Bicatenated cDNA can be obtained by the action of DNA polymerase, and is then inserted with the aid of a ligase into a plasmid or a vector derived from λ bacteriophage.

A cDNA bank contains the cDNA corresponding to the cytoplasmic mRNA extracted from a given cell. The bank is called complete if it comprises at least one bacterial clone for each starting mRNA.

Hybridization takes place if two oligonucleotides have substantially complementary nucleotide sequences, and they can combine over their length by establishing hydrogen bonds between complementary bases.

A method such that the oligonucleotide OX can be detected with the aid of a marking agent, such as ^{32}P or digoxigenin, will be particularly preferred.

The agents for radioactive marking of nucleotides most usually used are the elements which emit β-rays, for example ^{3}H, ^{12}C, ^{32}P, ^{33}P and ^{35}S.

Marking of the oligonucleotide is effected by addition of a phosphate group carried by (γ-^{32}P)-ATP on to its 5' end, this reaction being catalysed by the enzyme T4-polynucleotide kinase. Marking by digoxigenin is immunoenzymatic, the digoxigenin being combined with a nitrogen base and incorporated into the oligonucleotide. Its presence is revealed by using an antibody directed against digoxigenin and coupled to an alkaline phosphatase. The presence is revealed using the colour developed by a substrate hydrolysed by the alkaline phosphatase.

Other marking techniques can be employed: oligonucleotides modified chemically so that they contain a metal-complexing agent (complexes of lanthanide are often used), a group containing biotin or acridine ester, a fluorescent compound (fluorescein, rhodamine, Texas red) or others.

A method for identification of the precursor of the amidated polypeptide hormone such that the hybridization stage uses a combinatorial library of oligonucleotides OX will be especially particularly preferred.

The invention also relates to a method for identification of the precursor of a peptide having an amidated C-terminal end, which comprises the following stages:

1 - Obtaining of a DNA bank;

2 - Use of the PCR technique to amplify the fragment of interest with the aid of a group of oligonucleotides OX and another group of oligonucleotides OZ;

3 - Identification of the DNA sequence of the said bank which hybridizes with the oligonucleotide OX and which has been amplified by the PCR reaction;

4 - Identification in this sequence of one or more peptides with a possible amidated C-terminal end.

Fragment of interest is understood as meaning the cDNA sequence which codes for the precursor of one or more amidated polypeptide hormones.

The reaction of amplification of the DNA by a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) requires a DNA preparation denatured by heating at 95°C. This preparation is then paired with an excess of two complementary oligonucleotides at opposite strands of the DNA, on

both sides of the sequence to be amplified. Each oligonucleotide then serves as a primer for a DNA polymerase (extracted from thermophilic bacteria of the type Thermus aquatitus: Taq polymerase) for copying each of the strands of the DNA. This cycle can be repeated in an automated manner by successive denaturations-renaturations.

There are numerous references detailing PCR protocols: US Patents no. 4,683,192, 4,683,202, 4,800,159 and 4,965,188, "PCR technology : principles and applications for DNA amplification", H. Erlich, ed. Stockton Press, New York (1989) and "PCR protocols : a guide to methods and applications", Innis et al., eds. Academic Press, San Diego, California (1990).

Preferably, the said DNA bank is a cDNA bank.

More preferably, the said oligonucleotide OX can be detected with aid of a marking agent, such as ^{32}P or digoxigenin.

A method for identification of the precursor of an amidated polypeptide hormone such that the amplification stage uses a combinatorial library of oligonucleotides OX and another combinatorial library of oligonucleotides OZ will be particularly preferred.

The invention also relates to a method for identification of the precursor of a peptide having an amidated C-terminal end, which comprises the following stages:

1 - Obtaining of a DNA bank;

2 - Use of the PCR technique to amplify the fragment of interest with the aid of a group of oligonucleotides OX;

3 - Identification of the DNA sequence of the said bank which hybridizes with the oligonucleotide OX and which has been amplified by the PCR reaction;

4 - Identification in this sequence of one or more peptides with a possible amidated C-terminal end.

The aim of this method is to characterize the nucleotide sequences which code for precursors having more than one amidation site.

Preferably, the said DNA bank is a cDNA bank.

More preferably, the said oligonucleotide OX can be detected with the aid of a marking agent, such as ^{32}P or digoxigenin.

A method for the identification of the precursor of an amidated polypeptide hormone such that the amplification stage uses a combinatorial library of oligonucleotides OX will be particularly preferred.

Another method proposed by the present invention for identification of the precursor of a polypeptide having an amidated C-terminal end is characterized by the following stages:

1 - Obtaining of a DNA bank;

2 - Use of the PCR technique to amplify the fragment of interest with the aid of an oligonucleotide OX and another single-stranded oligonucleotide capable of hybridizing under mild or stringent conditions with a universal consensus sequence contained in the sequence of the plasmid vector in which the DNA of the said DNA bank are cloned, such as the primers T3, T7, KS, SK, M13, Reverse;

3 - Identification of the DNA sequence of the said bank which hybridizes with an oligonucleotide OX;

4 - Identification in this sequence of one or more peptides with a possible amidated C-terminal end.

The universal consensus sequence is a sequence carried by the vector in which the DNA of the bank is cloned. This sequence can serve as a primer for the sequencing. The nucleotide sequences of these primers are available in: Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E. F., Maniatis, T., *"Molecular cloning, a laboratory manual"*, 2nd edition, **1989**, Colel Spring Harbor Laboratory Press.

The PCR reaction requires that two oligonucleotides are fixed on to the cDNA cloned in a vector for its amplification to have taken place. In the case where only a single sequence belonging to the DNA fragment to be amplified is known, a solution to overcome this problem is to use an oligonucleotide which could hybridize with a nucleotide sequence belonging to the vector in which the cDNA has been cloned, such as a universal consensus sequence.

Preferably, the said DNA bank is a cDNA bank.

An oligonucleotide OY which can be detected with aid of a marking agent, such as ^{32}P or digoxigenin, will be preferred.

An amplification stage using a combinatorial library of oligonucleotides OX will be more particularly preferred.

EXAMPLE :

The method described by the invention has been validated by its application to a hormone which has already been isolated. The neurohormone chosen is cholecystokinin (CCK), which is the neuromediator which quantitatively is represented the most in the brain.

1.1. Preparation of the DNA matrix used for PCR reactions from a commercial bank, Lambda Zapp II (Rat Brain cDNA Library Vector, ref. 936 501) of STRATAGENE (Lafolla, USA).

This Stratagene cDNA bank contains the cloning of the cDNA of the cells of the rat brain.

1.1.1. Release of the cloned cDNA in the form of Bluescript phagemids (Stratagene, Lajolla, U.S.A.).

This is carried out in accordance with the following protocol: 250 µl of the cDNA bank at 2.10^8 PFU/ml, 200 µl of XL_1 blue bacteria (genotype: recA1 endA1 gyrA96 thi-1 hsdR17 supE44 relA1 lac [F' proAB $lacI^q$ ZΔM15 Tn10 (Tet^r)]^c - cf. Bullock, Fernandez, Short, *Biotechniques*, **5**, 376-379 (1987) - optical density at 600 nm: OD = 2.5) and 1 µl of the phage ExAssist™ (cf. Hay, B., Short, J., *Strategies*, **5**, 16-18 (1992)) at 10^{10} PFU/ml are brought into contact for 15 minutes at 37°C. The entire system is then incubated on 50 ml of LB medium (composition: 10 g NaCl, 5 g yeast extract and 10 g Bactotryptone per 1 litre of sterile physiological water are mixed) for 3 hours while stirring at 37°C. The culture broth is centrifuged and the supernatant is then activated by heating at 70°C for 20 minutes.

1.1.2. Obtaining of the cDNA in the form of a double-stranded plasmid bank.

This stage requires 15 minutes of incubation at 37°C of 100 µl of the inactivated supernatant and 200 µl of SOLR™ bacteria (genotype : $e14^-$(McrA$^-$) Δ(mcrCB-hsdSMR-mrr)171 sbcC recB recJ uvrC umuC::Tn5 (Kan^r) lac gyrA96 relA1 thi-1 endA1 λ^R [F' proAB $lacI^q$ZΔM15]^c Su^- (nonsuppressing) - cf. Hay, B., Short, J. M., *Strategies*, **5**(1), 16-18 (1992) - OD = 1 to 600 nm). After addition of 50 µl ampicillin (at 100 mg/ml) and 50 ml of LB medium, the entire system is incubated at 37°C while stirring for one night. The plasmids are prepared from 50 ml of culture with the QIAGEN Plasmid Midi Kit protocol and columns from QIAGEN (the QIAGEN columns contain an anion exchange resin with positively charged diethylaminoethanol groups on

its surface which interact with the phosphates of the DNA skeleton). A DNA solution at 1.37 µg/µl was thus obtained.

1.2. Amplification of a portion of the precursor of CCK from the plasmid bank thus prepared.

1.2.1. Establishing the sequences of the two oligonucleotides necessary for the PCR reaction.

One of these two nucleotides will contain the sequence complementary to that which codes for the amidation site of CCK, which site is known and has as the sequence Gly-Arg-Arg-Ser-Ala-Glu. This oligonucleotide, which will be called *oligo CCK amide*, has as its nucleotide sequence:

5' CTCAGCACTGCGCCGGCC 3'

The second oligonucleotide, called *oligo CCK 5'*, corresponds to the consensus signal sequence:

5' GTGTGTCTGTGCGTGGTG 3'

The size of the expected amplification product is 315 base pairs, which is the distance between the sequences corresponding to these two oligonucleotides on the precursor sequence of the CCK.

1.2.2. PCR reaction.

A dilution D1 containing 1 µl of the enzyme Taq polymerase Goldstar 5 U/µl (cf. Reynier, P., Pellissier, J. F., Harle, J. R., Malthiéry, Y., *Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications*, **205**(1), 375-380 (1994)), 1 µl of a buffer concentrated 10-fold in standard Taq polymerase and 8 µl water is prepared.

1 µl *oligo CCK 5'* at 250 ng/µl, 1 µl *oligo CCK amide* at 250 ng/µl, 1 µl dNTP at 10 mM each, 1 µl of the cDNA bank at 250 ng/µl, 5 µl of buffer concentrated 10-fold in the enzyme Taq polymerase, 2 µl $MgCl_2$ at 25 mM, 1 µl of the dilution D1 and 37 µl water are then mixed.

The amplification conditions are the following: heat treatment is first carried out for 5 minutes at 95°C, and 30 cycles are then repeated. The denaturations are carried out at 95°C for 45 seconds, the hybridization at 60°C for 30 seconds and the elongation at 72°C for 1 minute. Finally, a supplementary cycle is conducted with an elongation at 72°C for 10 minutes.

1.2.3. Results.

The results are read by migration on agarose gel at 0.8% of 1/10 of the product of the PCR reaction. In the presence of 3,8-diamino-5-ethyl-6-phenylphenanthridinium bromide (ethidium bromide), a single intense band of a size slightly greater than the marker of molecular weight 300 is visualized.

1.3. Subcloning of the PCR product into a vector which allows sequencing

The vector used is pGEM T-easy Vector (marketed by PROGEMA Corporation, Madison, USA, ref. A 1380 - sequence given in appendix I). The stages are the following:

- purification of the band corresponding to the PCR product by electroelution,
- ligation for one night 16°C with 1 µl of the vector pGEM T-easy at 50 ng/µl and 1 µl of ligase buffer concentrated 10-fold,

- 3 µl of product extracted from the purified band, estimated at 20 ng/µl,

- topped up to 10 µl with water.

JM 109 bacteria (genotype: e14-(McrA-) recA1 endA1 gyrA96 thi-1 hsdR17(r_K-m_{K+}) supE44 relA1 Δ(lac-proAB) [F' traD36 proAB $lacI^qZ\Delta M15$] - cf. Yanish-Perron, C., Viera, J., Messing, J., *Gene*, **33**, 103-199 (1985)) are rendered competent by a treatment beforehand with $CaCl_2$ and are then transformed by a thermal shock of 45 seconds at 42°C with 1/5 of the ligation. The cells are then cultured on LB-ampicillin medium in a Petri dish overnight at 37°C.

The plasmid DNA of some recombinant clones are prepared. The subcloning is then verified by enzymatic digestion with Eco RI.

1.4 Sequencing

This is carried out by the conventional technique of dideoxynucleotides of SANGER on the vector pGEM T-easy Vector, the PCR product of 315 base pairs having been incorporated (prepared on a large scale using the QIAGEN tip 100 kit). The primer used for the sequencing is the universal oligonucleotide T7 present on the pGEM T-easy Vector plasmid.

1.5. Result.

The following crude sequence is obtained:

GTG TGT CTG TGC GTG GTG ATG GCA GTC CTG GCA GCA GGC GCC CTG GCG CAG CCG GTA GTC CCT GTA GAA GCT GTG GAC CCT ATG GAG CAG CGG GCG GAG GAG GCG CCC CGA AGG CAG CTG AGG GCT GTG CTC CGA CCG GAC AGC GAG CCC CGA GCG CGC CTG GGC GCA CTG CTA GCC CGA TAC ATC CAG CAG GTC CGC AAA GCT CCC TCT GGC CGC ATG TCC GTT CTT AAG AAC CTG CAG GGC CTG GAC CCT AGC CAC AGG ATA AGT GAC CGG GAC TAC ATG GGC TGG ATG GAT TTC GGC CGG CGC AGT GCT GAG

Translation of the sequence obtained into amino acids results in:

VCLCVV	MAVLAAGALA	QPVVPVEAVD	PMEQRAEEAP
RRQLRAVLRP	DSEPRARLGA	LLARYIQQVR	KAPSGRMSVL
KNLQGLDPSH	RISDRDYMGW	MDFGRRSAE	

which enables the nucleotide sequence of the precursor of CCK (the sequence of which has been provided by the Swiss databank prot no. p01355) to be easily found.

The amino acids have the following abbreviations:

Alanine	A	Leucine	L
Argine	R	Lysine	K
Aspartic acid	D	Methionine	M
Asparagine	N	Phenylalanine	F
Cysteine	C	Proline	P
Glutamic acid	E	Serine	S
Glutamine	Q	Threonine	T
Glycine	G	Tryptophan	W
Histidine	H	Tyrosine	Y
Isoleucine	I	Valine	V

Claims

1. Single-stranded oligonucleotide OX, characterized in that it comprises 9 to 42 nucleotides and is capable of hybridizing under mild conditions with an oligonucleotide OY of the sequence Y1-Y2-Y3-Y4-Y5, in which Y1 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or Y1 is suppressed, Y2 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Gly, Y3 and Y4 independently represent a trinucleotide which codes for Arg or Lys and Y5 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 21 nucleotides or Y5 is suppressed.

2. Oligonucleotide OX according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises 9 to 42 nucleotides and is capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions with an oligonucleotide OY of the sequence Y1-Y2-Y3-Y4-Y5, in which Y1 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or Y1 is suppressed, Y2 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Gly, Y3 and Y4 independently represent a trinucleotide which codes for Arg or Lys and Y5 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 21 nucleotides or Y5 is suppressed.

3. Oligonucleotide OX according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that Y1 is suppressed in the oligonucleotide OY.

4. Oligonucleotide OX according to claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that Y5 is suppressed in the oligonucleotide OY.

5. Oligonucleotide OX according to claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that, in OY, Y5 represents a nucleotide sequence Y6-Y7-Y8-Y9, in which Y6 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Ser, Thr or Tyr, Y7 represents a trinucleotide which codes for any amino acid, Y8 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Glu or Asp and Y9 represents a nucleotide sequence comprising 1 to 12 nucleotides.

6. Oligonucleotide OX according to claim 5, characterized in that Y1 and Y9 are suppressed in the oligonucleotide OY.

7. Oligonucleotide OX according to claim 6, characterized in that it can hybridize with the said oligonucleotide OY in which Y2 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Gly, Y3 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Lys, Y4 represents a trinucleotide which

codes for Arg and Y5 represents a sequence of 3 trinucleotides which codes for Ser-Ala-Glu.

8. Single-stranded oligonucleotide OY, characterized in that it comprises 9 to 42 nucleotides of the sequence Y1-Y2-Y3-Y4-Y5, in which Y1 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or Y1 is suppressed, Y2 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Gly, Y3 and Y4 independently represent a trinucleotide which codes for Arg or Lys and Y5 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 21 nucleotides or Y5 is suppressed.

9. Oligonucleotide OY according to claim 8, characterized in that Y1 is suppressed.

10. Oligonucleotide OY according to claim 8 or 9, characterized in that Y5 is suppressed.

11. Oligonucleotide OY according to claim 8 or 9, characterized in that Y5 represents a nucleotide sequence Y6-Y7-Y8-Y9, in which Y6 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Ser, Thr or Tyr, Y7 represents a trinucleotide which codes for any amino acid, Y8 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Glu or Asp and Y9 represents a nucleotide sequence comprising 1 to 12 nucleotides.

12. Oligonucleotide OY according to claim 11, characterized in that Y1 and Y9 are suppressed.

13. Oligonucleotide OY according to claim 12, characterized in that Y2 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Gly, Y3 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Lys, Y4 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Arg and Y5 represents a sequence of 3 trinucleotides which codes for Ser-Ala-Glu.

14. Single-stranded oligonucleotide OZ, characterized in that it comprises 15 to 39 nucleotides and is capable of hybridizing under mild or stringent conditions with a consensus signal sequence characteristic of amidated polypeptide hormones, the said sequence having as the formula Z1-Z2-Z3-Z4-Z5-Z6-Z7, in which Z1 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or Z1 is suppressed, Z2 and Z3 represent two trinucleotides which code for Leu, Z4 and Z5 represent two trinucleotides which code for any two amino acids, Z6 represents a trinucleotide which codes for Leu and Z7 represents a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or Z7 is suppressed.

15. Group of oligonucleotides OX according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or of oligonucleotides OZ according to claim 14, characterized in that it constitutes a combinatorial library.

16. Method for identification of the precursor of a peptide having an amidated C-terminal end, characterized by the following successive stages:

- obtaining of a DNA bank;

- hybridization of one or more oligonucleotides according to any one of claims 1 to 7 with the said DNA bank;

- identification of the DNA sequence or sequences of the said bank which hybridizes with an oligonucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 7;

- identification in this sequence or sequences of one or more precursors of peptides with a possible amidated C-terminal end.

17. Method according to claim 16, characterized in that the hybridization stage uses a combinatorial library according to claim 15.

18. Method for identification of the precursor of a peptide having an amidated C-terminal end, characterized by the following successive stages:

- obtaining of a DNA bank;

- use of the PCR technique to amplify the fragment of interest with the aid of a group of oligonucleotides according to any one of claims 1 to 7 and another group of oligonucleotides according to claim 14;

- identification of the DNA sequence or sequences of the said bank which hybridizes with the oligonucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 7;

- identification in this sequence or sequences of one or more precursors of peptides with a possible amidated C-terminal end.

19. Method according to claim 18, characterized in that the amplification stage uses a combinatorial library according to claim 15.

20. Method for identification of the precursor of a peptide having an amidated C-terminal end, characterized by the following successive stages:

- obtaining of a DNA bank;

- use of the PCR technique to amplify the fragment of interest with the aid of a group of oligonucleotides according to any one of claims 1 to 7;

- identification of the DNA sequence or sequences of the said bank which hybridizes with the oligonucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 7;

- identification in this sequence or sequences of one or more precursors of peptides with a possible amidated C-terminal end.

21. Method according to claim 20, characterized in that the amplification stage uses a combinatorial library according to claim 15.

22. Method for identification of the precursor of a polypeptide having an amidated C-terminal end, characterized by the following stages:

- obtaining of a DNA bank;

- use of the PCR technique to amplify the fragment of interest with the aid of an oligonucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 7 and another single-stranded oligonucleotide capable of hybridizing under mild or stringent conditions with a universal consensus sequence contained in the sequence of the plasmid vector in which the cDNA of the said DNA bank are cloned, such as the primers T3, T7, KS, SK, M13, Reverse;

- identification of the DNA sequence of the said bank which hybridizes with an oligonucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 7;

- identification in this sequence of one or more precursors of peptides with a possible amidated C-terminal end.

23. Method according to claim 22, characterized in that the amplification stage uses a combinatorial library according to claim 15.

24. Method according to any one of claims 16 to 23, characterized in that the DNA bank is cDNA bank.

25. Method according to any one of claims 16 to 24, characterized in that the single-stranded oligonucleotide can be detected with the aid of a marking agent, such as ^{32}P or digoxigenin.

APPENDIX 1

Sequence of the pGEM®-T Easy Vector plasmid

The pGEM®-T Easy Vector plasmid, the sequence of which is reproduced below, was linearized with *Eco*R V at base 60 of this sequence (indicated by an asterisk). A T with two 3' ends was added to it. The T added is not included in this sequence. The sequence reproduced below corresponds to the RNA synthesized by T7 RNA polymerase and is complementary to the RNA synthesized with SP6 RNA polymerase.

```
  1  GGGCGAATTG GGCCCGACGT CGCATGCTCC CGGCCGCCAT GGCGGCCGCG
 51  GGAATTCGAT*ATCACTAGTG AATTCGCGGC CGCCTGCAGG TCGACCATAT
101  GGGAGAGCTC CCAACGCGTT GGATGCATAG CTTGAGTATT CTATAGTGTC
151  ACCTAAATAG CTTGGCGTAA TCATGGTCAT AGCTGTTTCC TGTGTGAAAT
201  TGTTATCCGC TCACAATTCC ACACAACATA CGAGCCGGAA GCATAAAGTG
251  TAAAGCCTGG GGTGCCTAAT GAGTGAGCTA ACTCACATTA ATTGCGTTGC
301  GCTCACTGCC CGCTTTCCAG TCGGGAAACC TGTCGTGCCA GCTGCATTAA
351  TGAATCGGCC AACGCGCGGG GAGAGGCGGT TTGCGTATTG GGCGCTCTTC
401  CGCTTCCTCG CTCACTGACT CGCTGCGCTC GGTCGTTCGG CTGCGGCGAG
451  CGGTATCAGC TCACTCAAAG GCGGTAATAC GGTTATCCAC AGAATCAGGG
501  GATAACGCAG GAAAGAACAT GTGAGCAAAA GGCCAGCAAA AGGCCAGGAA
551  CCGTAAAAAG GCCGCGTTGC TGGCGTTTTT CCATAGGCTC CGCCCCCCTG
601  ACGAGCATCA CAAAAATCGA CGCTCAAGTC AGAGGTGGCG AAACCCGACA
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 651  GGACTATAAA GATACCAGGC GTTTCCCCCT GGAAGCTCCC TCGTGCGCTC
 701  TCCTGTTCCG ACCCTGCCGC TTACCGGATA CCTGTCCGCC TTTCTCCCTT
 751  CGGGAAGCGT GGCGCTTTCT CATAGCTCAC GCTGTAGGTA TCTCAGTTCG
 801  GTGTAGGTCG TTCGCTCCAA GCTGGGCTGT GTGCACGAAC CCCCCGTTCA
 851  GCCCGACCGC TGCGCCTTAT CCGGTAACTA TCGTCTTGAG TCCAACCCGG
 901  TAAGACACGA CTTATCGCCA CTGGCAGCAG CCACTGGTAA CAGGATTAGC
 951  AGAGCGAGGT ATGTAGGCGG TGCTACAGAG TTCTTGAAGT GGTGGCCTAA
1001  CTACGGCTAC ACTAGAAGGA CAGTATTTGG TATCTGCGCT CTGCTGAAGC
1051  CAGTTACCTT CGGAAAAAGA GTTGGTAGCT CTTGATCCGG CAAACAAACC
1101  ACCGCTGGTA GCGGTGGTTT TTTTGTTTGC AAGCAGCAGA TTACGCGCAG
1151  AAAAAAAGGA TCTCAAGAAG ATCCTTTGAT CTTTTCTACG GGGTCTGACG
1201  CTCAGTGGAA CGAAAACTCA CGTTAAGGGA TTTTGGTCAT GAGATTATCA
1251  AAAAGGATCT TCACCTAGAT CCTTTTAAAT TAAAAATGAA GTTTTAAATC
1301  AATCTAAAGT ATATATGAGT AAACTTGGTC TGACAGTTAC CAATGCTTAA
1351  TCAGTGAGGC ACCTATCTCA GCGATCTGTC TATTTCGTTC ATCCATAGTT
1401  GCCTGACTCC CCGTCGTGTA GATAACTACG ATACGGGAGG GCTTACCATC
1451  TGGCCCCAGT GCTGCAATGA TACCGCGAGA CCCACGCTCA CCGGCTCCAG
1501  ATTTATCAGC AATAAACCAG CCAGCCGGAA GGGCCGAGCG CAGAAGTGGT
1551  CCTGCAACTT TATCCGCCTC CATCCAGTCT ATTAATTGTT GCCGGGAAGC
1601  TAGAGTAAGT AGTTCGCCAG TTAATAGTTT GCGCAACGTT GTTGGCATTG
1651  CTACAGGCAT CGTGGTGTCA CGCTCGTCGT TTGGTATGGC TTCATTCAGC
1701  TCCGGTTCCC AACGATCAAG GCGAGTTACA TGATCCCCCA TGTTGTGCAA
1751  AAAAGCGGTT AGCTCCTTCG GTCCTCCGAT CGTTGTCAGA AGTAAGTTGG
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1801  CCGCAGTGTT ATCACTCATG GTTATGGCAG CACTGCATAA TTCTCTTACT
1851  GTCATGCCAT CCGTAAGATG CTTTTCTGTG ACTGGTGAGT ACTCAACCAA
1901  GTCATTCTGA GAATAGTGTA TGCGGCGACC GAGTTGCTCT TGCCCGGCGT
1951  CAATACGGGA TAATACCGCG CCACATAGCA GAACTTTAAA AGTGCTCATC
2001  ATTGGAAAAC GTTCTTCGGG GCGAAAACTC TCAAGGATCT TACCGCTGTT
2051  GAGATCCAGT TCGATGTAAC CCACTCGTGC ACCCAACTGA TCTTCAGCAT
2101  CTTTTACTTT CACCAGCGTT TCTGGGTGAG CAAAAACAGG AAGGCAAAAT
2151  GCCGCAAAAA AGGGAATAAG GGCGACACGG AAATGTTGAA TACTCATACT
2201  CTTCCTTTTT CAATATTATT GAAGCATTTA TCAGGGTTAT TGTCTCATGA
2251  GCGGATACAT ATTTGAATGT ATTTAGAAAA ATAAACAAAT AGGGGTTCCG
2301  CGCACATTTC CCCGAAAAGT GCCACCTGTA TGCGGTGTGA AATACCGCAC

2351  AGATGCGTAA GGAGAAAATA CCGCATCAGG CGAAATTGTA AACGTTAATA
2401  TTTTGTTAAA ATTCGCGTTA AATATTTGTT AAATCAGCTC ATTTTTTAAC
2451  CAATAGGCCG AAATCGGCAA AATCCCTTAT AAATCAAAAG AATAGACCGA
2501  GATAGGGTTG AGTGTTGTTC CAGTTTGGAA CAAGAGTCCA CTATTAAAGA
2551  ACGTGGACTC CAACGTCAAA GGGCGAAAAA CCGTCTATCA GGGCGATGGC
2601  CCACTACGTG AACCATCACC CAAATCAAGT TTTTTGCGGT CGAGGTGCCG
2651  TAAAGCTCTA AATCGGAACC CTAAAGGGAG CCCCCGATTT AGAGCTTGAC
2701  GGGGAAAGCC GGCGAACGTG GCGAGAAAGG AAGGGAAGAA AGCGAAAGGA
2751  GCGGGCGCTA GGGCGCTGGC AAGTGTAGCG GTCACGCTGC GCGTAACCAC
2801  CACACCCGCC GCGCTTAATG CGCCGCTACA GGGCGCGTCC ATTCGCCATT
2851  CAGGCTGCGC AACTGTTGGG AAGGGCGATC GGTGCGGGCC TCTTCGCTAT
2901  TACGCCAGCT GGCGAAAGGG GGATGTGCTG CAAGGCGATT AAGTTGGGTA
2951  ACGCCAGGGT TTTCCCAGTC ACGACGTTGT AAAACGACGG CCAGTGAATT
3001  GTAATACGAC TCACTATA
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DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION

[x] Declaration OR Submitted with Initial Filing
[ ] Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing

Attorney Docket Number	427.034
First Named Inventor	MARTINEZ et al
COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
Application Number	PCT/FR98/01767
Filing Date	August 7, 1998
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled :

OLIGONUCLEOTIDES WHICH ALLOW IDENTIFICATION OF PRECURSORS OF AMIDATED POLYPEPTIDE HORMONES

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

[ ] is attached hereto

OR

[x] was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 08/07/98 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number PCT/FR98/01767 and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119 (a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365 (a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES	Certified Copy Attached? NO
97/10643	France	08/26/97	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
PCT/FR98/01767 PCT		08/07/98	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
			[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
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[ ] Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

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DECLARATION

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application Number	PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
Bierman, Muserlian and Lucas	18,818		
Jordan B. Bierman	18,629		
Charles A. Muserlian	19,683		
Donald C. Lucas	31,275		

☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on a supplemental sheet attached hereto.

Direct all correspondence to:

Name: Charles A. Muserlian
Address: Bierman, Muserlian and Lucas
Address: 600 Third Avenue
City: New York | State: NY | ZIP: 10016
Country: U.S.A. | Telephone: (212) 661-8000 | Fax: (212) 661-8002

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor: ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name: Jean | Middle Initial: | Family Name: MARTINEZ | Suffix e.g. Jr.:

Inventor's Signature: [signature] | Date: August 9, 2000

Residence: City: Saussan | State: | Country: France | Citizenship: France

Post Office Address: Chemin des Romains, F-34570 Saussan, France

Post Office Address:

City: Saussan | State: | ZIP: F-34570 | Country: France

☒ Additional inventors are being named on supplemental sheet(s) attached hereto

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ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S) Supplemental Sheet

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:			☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor				
Given Name	Catherine	Middle Initial		Family Name	GOZE	Suffix e.g. Jr.	
Inventor's Signature	C. Goze				Date	March 9 2000	
Residence: City	Montpellier	State		Country	France	Citizenship	France
Post Office Address	Residence Chateau D'Alco, Batiment 8 33, rue des Avants-Monts, F-34080, Montpellier, France						
Post Office Address							
City	Montpellier	State		Zip	F-34080	Country	France

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:			☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor				
Given Name		Middle Initial		Family Name		Suffix e.g. Jr.	
Inventor's Signature					Date		
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
Post Office Address							
City		State		Zip		Country	

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:			☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor				
Given Name		Middle Initial		Family Name		Suffix e.g. Jr.	
Inventor's Signature					Date		
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
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Given Name		Middle Initial		Family Name		Suffix e.g. Jr.	
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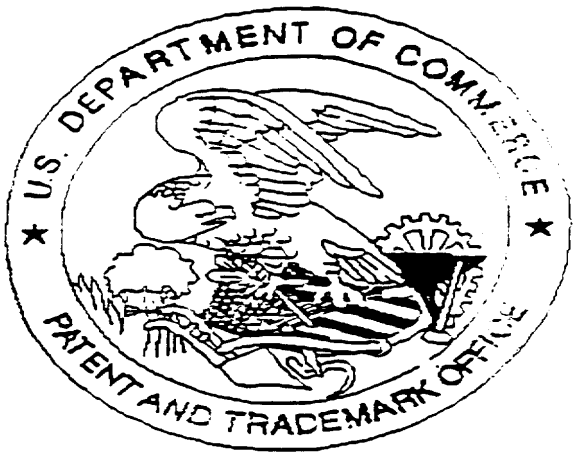

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